

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000173

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UNSC

SUBJECT: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

REF.: AMMAN 10000

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. YOU MAY PASS ALONG TO RIFAI THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS
TO ATHERTON'S CONVERSATIONS IN EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND
ISRAEL:

(A) THE EGYPTIANS URGED FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART,
ALTHOUGH THEY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING WITH OUR CONCERN THAT
WHAT THE SYRIANS APPEAR TO HAVE IN MIND COULD RESULT IN
RENEWED POLARIZATION AND A RETURN TO THE PRE-1973 SITUATION.

THEY URGED US TO AVOID A VETO. THE EGYPTIANS ALSO
PREDICTED THAT THERE MIGHT WELL BE SOME TENDENCY AMONG
INVOLVED STATES TO OUT-BID ONE ANOTHER IN TERMS OF
RESOLUTION LANGUAGE. THEY REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR

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RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

(B) WITH THE SAUDIS MOST OF THE DISCUSSION DEALT WITH MATTERS OF A BILATERAL CHARACTER, INCLUDING SOME CURRENT MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES AND THE SAUDI CONCERN OVER RECENT ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S.

(C) THE ISRAELIS, AS WE HAD ANTICIPATED, TOOK A HARD POSITION TOWARD THE COUNCIL SESSION, OPPOSING ANY CHANGE IN THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK THAT CONSISTS OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AS WELL AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FORMULA. THEY MAINTAINED THAT CHANGES IN THIS FRAMEWORK WOULD BRING AN END TO THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WITH RIFAI'S FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH KHADDAM IN MIND, YOU SHOULD SIMPLY RE-EMPHASIZE TO HIM OUR CONCERN THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING COULD EVOLVE IN SUCH A 'AY AS TO PRESENT SERIOUS RISK OF DISRUPTING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION AND OF BRINGING TO AN END ANY MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION. WE WOULD THEREFORE BELIEVE IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTIES MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AS THEY APPROACH THE COUNCIL MEETING, AND NOT LOCK THEMSELVES IN ON RESOLUTION LANGUAGE THAT WOULD PERMIT NO OTHER OUTCOME BUT ONE OF CONFRONTATION AND RESULTING STALEMATE. IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, WE APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS THE SYRIANS SEE, BUT WE BELIEVE THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY FOR THEM AND FOR US TO ACHIEVE OUR MUTUAL GOALS IS TO WORK TOGETHER AT A PACE THAT IS REALISTIC AND POSSIBLE. ROBINSON

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